

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-02  
SSM-05 SS-15 SSO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00  
PM-05 SP-02 USIE-00 L-03 MCT-01 /088 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:REUNDELAND:RGH  
APPROVED BY NEA/P:REUNDELAND  
S/PRS - MR. CARTER (INFO)  
H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)  
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW  
NEA - MR. COLLUMS  
NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER  
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH  
NEA/EGY - MR. NEWBERRY

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O 182254Z AUG 77 ZFF4  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV NIACT IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS  
USINT BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY MANAMA  
AMEMBASSY RABAT  
AMEMBASSY SANA  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
USMISSION SINAI  
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
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AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USMISSION NATO  
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
AMEMBASSY DOHA  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
USCINCEUR  
DOD  
NSC

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD TEL AVIV ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT ONLY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - AUGUST 18

1.  
FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS  
FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR AUGUST 18, 1977. FYI  
ONLY, SPOKESMAN TODAY WAS HODDING CARTER III.

SPOKESMAN: I HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT. THIS HAS TO DO ON THE  
QUESTION OF SETTLEMENTS ON THE WEST BANK.

OUR POSITION ON THE ISSUE OF SETTLEMENTS IS CLEAR. WE  
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REAFFIRM WHAT WE HAVE SAID MANY TIMES BEFORE. THESE  
UNILATERAL ILLEGAL ACTS IN TERRITORIES PRESENTLY UNDER  
ISRAELI OCCUPATION CREATE OBSTACLES TO CONSTRUCTIVE  
NEGOTIATIONS.

THAT IS THE END OF THE FORMAL STATEMENT.

Q. IS THAT WHAT THE AMBASSADOR IN SUBSTANCE TOLD THE  
ISRAELI GOVERNMENT TODAY?

A. YES. AMBASSADOR LEWIS SAID THAT AT SOME LENGTH. I  
MEAN I AM SURE AMPLIFYING AND GOING IN AGAIN OVER THE  
GROUND THAT WE HAVE RAISED BEFORE. THAT IS THE REASON FOR

THAT.

Q. IT SEEMS OBVIOUS THAT THIS WOULD DOT THE "I'S". DOES  
THIS STATEMENT APPLY TO THE THREE ACTIONS TAKEN YESTER-  
DAY?

A. YES.

Q. AND YOU SAY THAT IS WHAT THE AMBASSADOR DISCUSSED  
YESTERDAY WITH SOME AMPLIFICATION?

A. YES.

WHEN I SAY "SOME AMPLIFICATION" I SIMPLY MEAN THAT WE WENT OVER, YOU KNOW, PRETTY FULLY WHAT HAS BEEN SAID FROM HERE BEFORE AND WHAT THE PRESIDENT HAS SAID AS TO THE BASIS FOR THAT POSITION, AND I KNOW THERE WAS NOTHING NEW SAID IN IT INsofar AS WHY WE VIEW THESE MOVES AS BEING OBSTACLES.

Q. APART FROM WHAT THE PRESIDENT SAID TO PRIME MINISTER BEGIN, HAVE WE SINCE THEN, EITHER THROUGH THE AMBASSADOR UNCLASSIFIED

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OR THE SECRETARY, ASKED THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT TO CEASE ESTABLISHING NEW SETTLEMENTS?

A. I KNOW THAT THE ISSUE HAS ARISEN. WHETHER THE QUESTION AROSE IN THE FRAME OF DON'T DO ANY MORE NEW SETTLEMENTS OR WHETHER WE SIMPLY REITERATED OUR OPPOSITION TO ANY NEW SETTLEMENTS, ANY SETTLEMENTS IN THAT AREA, I REALLY AM NOT PREPARED TO SAY.

Q. FROM ISRAEL THE COMMENT FROM THE BEGIN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN THAT THESE WERE SETTLEMENTS ALREADY APPROVED BY THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT AND THEY WERE JUST CARRYING OUT ESTABLISHED POLICY.

DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THAT STATEMENT?

A. NO. I DON'T HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THAT SPECIFICALLY. I WOULD JUST ADD THAT NO MATTER WHOSE POLICY OR WHOSE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY, IT IS BEING IMPLEMENTED BY THIS GOVERNMENT AND WE FEEL THAT THAT IMPLEMENTATION DOES CREATE OBSTACLES TO NEGOTIATION OF A PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

Q. YOU SAID YESTERDAY I THINK THAT THE AMBASSADOR WAS GOING TO ASK FOR OR SEEK CLARIFICATIONS. DID YOU GET SOME CLARIFICATION AS TO WHAT THE FUTURE INTENTION IS OF

THIS GOVERNMENT, THE PRESENT ISRAELI GOVERNMENT, ARE REGARDING WEST BANK SETTLEMENTS?

A. NO. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING THAT GOES BEYOND WHAT THEY HAVE SAID INsofar AS THESE THREE SETTLEMENTS ARE CONCERNED. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO OFFER AS FAR AS WHAT UNCLASSIFIED

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THEY INTEND FOR THE FUTURE ON OTHER SETTLEMENTS OR POSSIBLE SETTLEMENTS.

I THINK I ALSO SAID WE WERE GOING TO TRY TO SEEK SOME

CLARIFICATION ON THE EXTENSION OF I BELIEVE WHAT WERE  
TERMED EQUAL RIGHTS TO THE WEST BANK.

Q. DO YOU HAVE A COMMENT ON THE EXTENSION?

A. YES. THE FULL LEGAL IMPACT OF THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT  
DECISION, WHICH WE UNDERSTAND WAS TAKEN IN PRINCIPLE, WITH  
DETAILS OF IMPLEMENTATION TO BE WORKED OUT IN THE COMING  
WEEKS, IS NOT YET CLEAR. THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT HAS  
EMPHASIZED THE POTENTIAL BENEFIT TO THE POPULATION IN THE  
OCCUPIED TERRITORIES OF THE HUMANITARIAN AIMS OF THIS  
DECISION.

AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, THE ACTION CREATES AN IMPRESSI-  
ON OF PERMANENCE OF ISRAEL'S OCCUPATION OF THE LANDS  
WHICH CAME UNDER ISRAELI CONTROL AS A RESULT OF THE  
JUNE 1967 WAR, WHICH IS NOT HELPFUL.

IN THIS CONNECTION WE HAVE NOTED WITH REGRET THE  
STATEMENT OF THE CABINET SECRETARY WHEN ANNOUNCING THE  
DECISION THAT ISRAEL CANNOT "ANNEX THE LAND OF ISRAEL  
FOR THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL SINCE IT ALREADY BELONGS TO  
THEM." END STATEMENT.

Q. WAS THIS ALSO CONVEYED BY THE AMBASSADOR TODAY?

A. THIS MESSAGE AS WELL AS THIS STATEMENT WAS CONVEYED  
TO THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT TODAY BEFORE I GAVE IT FROM  
THIS PODIUM.

Q. CAN I GO BACK TO YOUR ORIGINAL STATEMENT? YOU TALKED  
ABOUT --  
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A. I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE A MISAPPREHENSION. THIS  
STATEMENT, BOTH OF THESE STATEMENTS, WERE CONVEYED TO THE  
ISRAELI GOVERNMENT THROUGH ITS AMBASSADOR HERE IN  
WASHINGTON THIS MORNING.

Q. SO IT WAS NOT TAKEN UP BY --

A. IT WAS TAKEN UP, BUT THE EXACT WORDING OF THE  
STATEMENT --

Q. WELL, THE SUBJECT, THE TWO SUBJECTS, THE SETTLEMENTS  
AND THE LEGAL STATUS OF THE ARABS.

Q. WAS THAT BY PHONE?

A. NO. THAT WAS IN PERSON.

Q. BY WHOM?

A. BY MR. HABIB.

Q. DID MR. DINITZ COME IN?

A. YES, HE DID.

Q. NOW CAN I GO BACK TO THE FIRST STATEMENT?

ON THE ISSUE OF THESE UNILATERAL ILLEGAL ACTS, ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT THE LEGALIZING, NUMBER ONE, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW SETTLEMENTS, NUMBER TWO, OR BOTH?

A. BOTH.  
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Q. DO YOU DIFFERENTIATE IN DEGREE OF SEVERITY OF THE ILLEGALITY BETWEEN THIS MOST RECENT ACT OF ESTABLISHING NEW COMMUNITIES OR NEW SETTLEMENTS AND THE ONE ON JULY 26TH OR 25TH, GIVING LEGAL SANCTIONS TO ESTABLISHED ONES? IS THERE ANY DIFFERENCE?

A. I AM NOT ENOUGH OF AN EXPERT ON THE INTERNATIONAL LAW THAT WE RELY ON THIS TO SUGGEST WHICH IS MORE SEVERE. WE HAVE, HOWEVER, SPOKEN, I BELIEVE TO BOTH AS BEING ACTS THAT WE REGARD AS BEING OBSTACLES TO PEACE. AND WE HAVE ALSO MADE OUR POSITION CLEAR, I THINK, ON THIS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS THAT WE FEEL THAT IT CONTRAVENES OUR UNDERSTANDING.

Q. OUR UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT?

A. TO REPEAT, OF THE 4TH GENEVA CONVENTION.

Q. BUT YOU CALLED BOTH OF THESE THINGS ILLEGAL, WHICH THE PRESIDENT HASN'T DONE. IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT TAKES A STRONGER POSITION THAN THE PRESIDENT, BUT I WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT IS WHAT YOU

INTEND TO DO.

A. ABSOLUTELY.

Q. YOU WERE SAYING BOTH THINGS -- NEW SETTLEMENTS AND THE LEGALIZING OF EXISTING SETTLEMENTS ARE ILLEGAL.

A. WE FEEL BOTH UNILATERAL AND ILLEGAL.

Q. WHAT ABOUT EXTENDING RIGHTS AND SERVICES TO THE WEST BANK?

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A. I BELIEVE THE OPENING STATEMENT I MADE ON THAT WAS THAT THE FULL LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OF THAT ACT ARE NOT YET CLEAR. I AM NOT PREPARED TO MAKE A STATEMENT ON THAT BEYOND WHAT I HAVE ALREADY SAID.

Q. DID AMBASSADOR LEWIS IN HIS DISCUSSION WITH THE GOVERNMENT IN ISRAEL ASK AGAIN THAT NO FURTHER SETTLEMENTS BE ESTABLISHED IN THE WEST BANK AREA, AND WAS THERE ANY RESPONSE FROM THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT?

A. I AM NOT PREPARED TO GO INTO ALL THE DETAILS OF WHAT THE AMBASSADOR SAID IN HIS CONVERSATIONS. I AM SURE, HOWEVER, THAT HE REITERATED OUR POSITION, WHICH IS THAT NO SUCH STEPS ARE USEFUL IN THE PROCESS THAT WE ARE ALL UNDERTAKING, WHICH IS TO TRY TO FIND A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE MIDDLE EASTERN CONFLICT. TO GO BEYOND THAT, I AM NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO TAKE A QUESTION ON THE SPECIFICS OF WHAT THE AMBASSADOR DISCUSSED.

Q. COULD YOU TELL ME WHETHER OR NOT THE UNITED STATES HAS NOW ANY ASSURANCE THAT THERE WILL BE NO FURTHER SETTLEMENTS ESTABLISHED WHILE THIS PEACEMAKING BUSINESS IS STILL UNDERWAY?

A. I WILL HAVE TO TAKE THAT QUESTION.

Q. TO FOLLOW UP ON THAT, WHAT HAPPENS IF THE ISRAELIS CONTINUE ESTABLISHING SETTLEMENTS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORY? DO WE GO ON MAKING STATEMENTS?

A. I WOULD SAY ON THAT ONE THAT I AGAIN WOULD HAVE TO LET THE ACTION AND RESPONSE SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES. I CAN'T SPECULATE ON WHAT WE WILL OR WON'T DO.  
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Q. DO YOU KNOW AS A FACTUAL MATTER WHETHER THE LABOR GOVERNMENT AGREED TO SET UP OTHER SETTLEMENTS, OTHER THAN THE ONES THAT HAVE NOW BEEN PRONOUNCED AS MOVING FORWARD BY THE BEGIN GOVERNMENT?

A. I DO NOT KNOW THAT AS A FACTUAL MATTER.

Q. COULD YOU CHECK THAT?

A. I COULD TRY TO CHECK THAT.

Q. HAVE YOUR STATEMENTS BEEN APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT?

A. YES, THOSE STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN CLEARED IN THE WHITE

HOUSE.

Q. IN THE WHITE HOUSE, NOT NECESSARILY BY THE PRESIDENT. BECAUSE WE HAVE GONE THROUGH THIS FOUR TIMES. YOU SAY A STATEMENT AND TWO DAYS LATER THE PRESIDENT WILL SAY, "WELL, I DON'T TAKE IT THAT SERIOUSLY."

A. YES. I AM SIMPLY SAYING THAT THESE STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN CLEARED THROUGH THE WHITE HOUSE.

Q. WAS THE SUBJECT BROUGHT UP AT CAMP DAVID YESTERDAY, AS FAR AS YOU KNOW, WITH THE SECRETARY?

A. I DON'T KNOW. I KNOW THAT THEY HAD A VERY FULL TALK ON CHINA. I AM NOT SURE BEYOND THAT WHAT ALL THEY TALKED ABOUT AND I AM NOT PREPARED TO GO INTO WHAT ELSE THEY TALKED ABOUT.

Q. DOES THE WHITE HOUSE INCLUDE CAMP DAVID OR JUST WHOEVER IS SITTING THERE NOW IN THE NSC OFFICE?

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A. I THINK THAT WHEN I SAY THE WHITE HOUSE, I HAVE TO ASSUME THAT THIS MEANS THAT IT HAS A CLEARANCE WHICH INCORPORATES THE PRESIDENT'S APPROVAL.

Q. BECAUSE HE NEVER CALLED THOSE THINGS ILLEGAL. AND, AGAIN, UNLESS YOU ARE PLAYING MUTT AND JEFF, YOU BEING THE TOUGH GUY WHILE HE IS BEING THE GOOD GUY, YOU ARE SAYING TOUGHER THINGS THAN THE PRESIDENT IS SAYING. WAS THIS CLEARED WITH HIM?

A. NO. ALL I CAN TELL YOU IS THAT THESE WERE CLEARED AT THE WHITE HOUSE. I DO NOT KNOW THE PROCESS AT WHICH POINT THE OKAY COMES BACK AS TO HOW IT WENT, WHO IT WAS

SENT THROUGH OR ANYTHING OF THE SORT.

Q. CAN I ASK YOU ONE OTHER QUESTION? TO BROADEN THE SITUATION SOMEWHAT IN SPEAKING OF OBSTACLES TO PEACE, DURING THIS PERIOD THE PLO HAS TAKEN CREDIT FOR AT LEAST ONE EXPLOSION INSIDE ISRAEL, AND I SUPPOSE THERE HAVE BEEN OTHER INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE, ARE THOSE OBSTACLES TO PEACE?

A. I THINK THAT I SAID YESTERDAY -- THAT SAME QUESTION WAS ASKED. I WAS ASKED AT SOME LENGTH ABOUT THAT, AND I ANSWERED AT SOME LENGTH --

Q. I WAS JUST BEING EVEN-HANDED.

A. CERTAINLY I WOULD SAY THAT ANY ACTS OF TERRORISM ARE NOT HELPFUL AND CREATE OBSTACLES TO PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS BY WHOMEVER THEY ARE --

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Q. I MEAN, BLOWING UP PEOPLE IS ALSO ILLEGAL.

A. I HAVE ALWAYS FELT THAT IT WAS MORE THAN ILLEGAL, IT WAS UNCONSCIONABLE, BUT THAT IS A STATEMENT OF POLICY, ALSO.

Q. WHY DON'T YOU IDENTIFY THE PLO AS THE PERPETRATOR OF THESE BOMBINGS AND OTHER ACTS OF TERRORISM?

A. I THINK WE WENT THROUGH THIS WHOLE DANCE YESTERDAY --

Q. I DON'T THINK YOU DID.

A. YES, WE DID, AND WHAT I TOLD YOU AT THE TIME WAS THAT IN ANY EVENT THAT WE KNOW OF OUR KNOWLEDGE WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ACTS OF TERRORISM, THEN WE ARE WILLING AND HAVE DONE AND WILL DO AGAIN A STATEMENT ON THIS SUBJECT WHICH WOULD INDICATE OUR OPPOSITION TO THEM AND CONDEMNATION OF THEM, AND INCLUDING THE PERPETRATORS.

Q. ALL RIGHT, THEN WHAT IS HOLDING UP THE DECISION TO RELEASE INFORMATION ON THIS? THE WASHINGTON POST CARRIED IT YESTERDAY.

A. LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING. I ENJOY THESE CONVERSATIONS WITH YOU, BUT I DON'T REALLY ENJOY DOING THEM EVERY DAY ON THE SAME SUBJECT WHEN YOU ASK ME THE SAME QUESTIONS. AND I WILL GIVE YOU THE SAME ANSWER I GAVE YESTERDAY.

Q. WHEN I ASKED YESTERDAY WHETHER OR NOT THE EMBASSIES IN ISRAEL AND LEBANON HAVE REPORTED THIS TO YOU AND I DIDN'T GET AN ANSWER TO THAT.

A. AND I AM TELLING YOU THAT WE DO NOT HAVE INDEPENDENT CONFIRMATION OF WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THESE DESPICABLE  
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ACTS.

Q. ARE YOU LOOKING FOR INDEPENDENT INFORMATION?

A. WE ARE CONSTANTLY INTERESTED IN WHAT ARE THE FACTS OF EVERY SITUATION THAT ARISES IN THE MIDDLE EAST THAT WOULD



CREATE OBSTACLES TO THE SOLUTION OF A PROBLEM WHICH IS ALMOST OF THIRTY YEARS STANDING.

Q. IN YOUR FIRST STATEMENT, YOU TALKED ABOUT THESE ISRAELI ACTIONS CREATING OBSTACLES TO CONSTRUCTIVE NEGOTIATION. THE LAST TIME AROUND, THEY WERE OBSTACLES TO PEACE. IS THE DIFFERENCE INTENDED TO HAVE ANY MEANING?

A. I THINK THAT THE DIFFERENCE IS LANGUAGE AND NOT MEANING.

Q. LANGUAGE HAS MEANING.

A. IT ALWAYS HAS MEANING. IN THIS CASE, HOWEVER, I THINK THAT IT IS NOT CRAFTED IN SUCH A WAY AS TO SIGNAL ANYTHING. THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE TOWARD PEACE, AND PEACE NEGOTIATIONS ARE WHAT WE ARE ALL TALKING ABOUT.

Q. SO YOU INTEND TO SAY AS WELL THAT THESE ACTIONS ARE OBSTACLES TO PEACE.

A. WELL, SINCE THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE ABOUT CREATING PEACE, THEN IT LOGICALLY FOLLOWS THAT WHAT THESE OBSTACLES ARE TO PEACE.

Q. ARE THESE NEGOTIATIONS PRESENTLY UNDERWAY?  
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A. OUR NEGOTIATIONS AS OF LAST SATURDAY WERE OBVIOUSLY UNDERWAY. THEY INTEND TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS TAKING ANY FORMS, INCLUDING CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN AMBASSADORS IN BOTH COUNTRIES AND AMBASSADORS IN OTHER COUNTRIES AND OUR REPRESENTATIVES, SUCH AS THE SECRETARY OF STATE, WHICH WILL BE COMING UP AGAIN IN NEW YORK. YES, OF COURSE, THEY ARE UNDERWAY.

Q. JUST TO CLEAR UP ANY CONFUSION HERE, IN YOUR STATEMENTS YOU HAVE REPEATEDLY REFERRED TO THE WEST BANK AND OCCUPIED TERRITORY. THE ISRAELIS, OF COURSE, HAVE A DIFFERENT INTERPRETATION OF THIS. IS THIS JUST A SIGNAL THAT WE AND THE ISRAELIS, THE U.S. AND THE ISRAELIS HAVE DIFFERENT INTERPRETATIONS?

A. YES, WE DO.

Q. HAS THAT BEEN DISCUSSED WITH THE ISRAELIS ABOUT THIS? IN OTHER WORDS, IN THE NEGOTIATIONS HAS THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT SAID THAT THE WEST BANK, IN ITS OPINION, IS PROPERLY ISRAELI?

A. THERE HAS BEEN CONFLICTING LEGAL OPINIONS OFFERED

BY BOTH SIDES ON THE STATUS OF THE WEST BANK. YES, TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION.

Q. A QUESTION WAS TAKEN YESTERDAY AS TO WHETHER ISRAEL W- AS LEGALLY USING ANY U.S. SUPPLIED MILITARY EQUIPMENT.

A. YES. I DON'T KNOW IF THAT QUESTION HAS COME DOWN YET OR NOT. IT HAS NOT, BUT AT ANY RATE THE QUESTION IS PENDING.

Q. ON TUESDAY YOU SAID THAT IF A NEW RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WOULD OPPOSE IT.  
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DOES THAT MEAN THE UNITED STATES WOULD OPPOSE ANY ESTABLISHMENT OF INDEPENDENCE OF A NEW STATE ON THE WEST BANK?

A. WHAT I SAID AT THE TIME WAS THAT ANYTHING WHICH INTERFERES WITH THE MEANING OF 242 AND WHICH WOULD IN ANY WAY BRING INTO QUESTION THE MEANING OF 242 WE WOULD OPPOSE.

AS FAR AS SPECULATING ABOUT ANY NUMBER OF OTHER RESOLUTIONS WHICH MIGHT ARISE HAVING TO DO WITH THE GENERAL QUESTIONS OUT THERE, I AM REALLY NOT PREPARED TO SORT OF SAY, YES, YES, YES, NO, NO, NO, BECAUSE THERE ARE A WHOLE NUMBER OF POSSIBILITIES. I MEAN THE FUNDAMENTAL PREMISE ON WHICH I WAS MOVING THE OTHER DAY HAD TO DO WITH A WHOLE SET OF QUESTIONS THAT HAD TO DO WITH 242.

A. I AM NOT TRYING TO LEAVE AN IMPLICATION THAT WE ARE NOW STANDING HERE SAYING WE WELCOME ANY NEW RESOLUTIONS. WE REALLY BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE THE BASIS FOR PEACE

NEGOTIATIONS IN THE RESOLUTIONS AS THEY STAND.

Q. WOULD THE UNITED STATES THEN SUPPORT A NEW PALESTINIAN STATE THAT EVER WAS ESTABLISHED?

A. WE HAVE DISCUSSED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, THE PRESIDENT HAS SPOKEN OF THE NEED FOR AN ENTITY OR A HOMELAND AND THE FORM IT WOULD TAKE, HOW IT WOULD BE BROUGHT ABOUT. THESE ARE MATTERS FOR NEGOTIATION BETWEEN THE PARTIES AND I AM NOT REALLY PREPARED TO SORT OF SET DOWN AN AMERICAN AGENDA FOR HOW SUCH A RESULT COULD BE ACHIEVED.  
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Q. IN THE OPINION OF THE DEPARTMENT, DO THE ISRAELI ACTIONS, THIS ONE AND SEVERAL OTHERS ALONG THE SAME LINE

IN RECENT DAYS, CAST ANY LIGHT ON THEIR POTENTIAL WILLINGNESS TO BE FLEXIBLE IN TERMS OF REACHING A COMPREHENSIVE PEACE AGREEMENT?

A. I THINK THAT I'M NOT PREPARED TO SPECULATE AS TO WHAT ACTIONS MEAN IN TERMS OF WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE. I BELIEVE THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF ISRAEL HAS SAID THAT ISRAEL IS PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE ON ALL ISSUES, AND THAT ISRAEL IN STATING ITS POSITION, IS MERELY DOING WHAT THE ARABS ALSO DO, WHICH IS TO STATE THEIR POSITION, AND THAT THAT PRECEDES THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS AT GENEVA, AND I AM NOT GOING TO TRY TO CHARACTERIZE THAT ASPECT OF WHAT THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT HAS DONE.

Q. CAN I TAKE YOU BACK TO SOMETHING YOU REFERRED TO JUST IN PASSING A WHILE AGO? SHMUEL KATZ, WHEN HE WAS HERE AS MR. BEGIN'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE, SAID THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT REGARDED THE WEST BANK AS OCCUPIED TERRITORY WITHIN THE TERMS OF RESOLUTION 242. THE LEGAL POINT HE WAS TRYING TO MAKE WAS, ALTHOUGH THEY CLAIM IT AS ISRAEL, THEY DID OCCUPY IT IN 1967. ARE THEY NOW SAYING, IS THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT NOW SAYING THAT THIS IS NOT OCCUPIED ACCORDING TO THE DEFINITION OF "OCCUPIED TERRITORY" IN RESOLUTION 242?

A. I AM NOT SURE THAT I HAVE SEEN THE QUESTION ADDRESSED IN EXACTLY THOSE TERMS. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF ARGUMENTS THAT I HAVE SEEN ADVANCED IN THE PRESS BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT AS TO WHAT THE STATUS OF THE WEST BANK IS, IN TERMS OF HISTORY, IN TERMS OF BIBLICAL REFERENCE, AND IN TERMS OF A NUMBER OF THINGS. HOW THEY REGARD IT IN TERMS OF 242, I'LL JUST HAVE TO LEAVE WITH MR. KATZ, AND IF THAT'S WHAT HE SAID, THEN I WILL UNCLASSIFIED

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ACCEPT THAT AS WHAT THEY BELIEVE.

Q. WHAT IS THE SCHEDULE ON THE DELIVERY OF ARMS TO ISRAEL? DO YOU FORECAST ANY DELAY IN THIS DELIVERY?

A. I THINK THE SECRETARY SPOKE ON THE QUESTION OF OUR COMMITMENT TO ISRAEL'S DEFENSE NEEDS. I DO NOT KNOW OF ANY DELAYS OR HESITATIONS ON WHAT WE HAVE COMMITTED.

Q. IS THE ADMINISTRATION CONSIDERING ANOTHER COURSE OF ACTION, OR COURSES OF ACTION, THAT IT MIGHT TAKE IN THE EVENT THAT THERE ARE MORE CASES OF SETTLEMENTS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES?

A. I'M SURE THAT THERE ARE, AS ALWAYS, ANY NUMBER OF IDEAS WHICH ARE ADVANCED TO DEAL WITH CONTINGENCIES, BUT I DO NOT KNOW OF A SET PATTERN OF REACTION THAT WE WOULD

TAKE. I'M SURE THE ISSUE HAS BEEN DISCUSSED. IT WOULD BE INCONCEIVABLE TO ME THAT IT HAD NOT BEEN, BUT I DON'T KNOW OF ANY SET AGENDA OF WHAT HAPPENS IF SOMETHING HAPPENS, AND I THINK I REALLY WOULD HAVE TO WAIT FOR EVENTS ON THAT.

Q. ARE YOU ALREADY CONSIDERING DOING SOMETHING ABOUT IT?

A. NO. I DON'T WANT TO STAND UP HERE AND SAY SOMETHING INSANE, WHICH IS THAT WE DON'T CONSIDER CONTINGENCIES. THAT DOES NOT, HOWEVER, MEAN THAT WE ARE AT THAT POINT IN THE PROCESS OF EVEN CLOSE TO IMPLEMENTING ONE OF WHAT MAY BE A DOZEN OPTIONS TO DEAL WITH THEM.

Q. LET ME PUT THE QUESTION THIS WAY, THEN: DOES THE ADMINISTRATION FEEL THAT THE POLICY OF MAKING STATEMENTS UNCLASSIFIED

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SUCH AS THE ONE THAT YOU MAKE TODAY AND MADE LAST MONTH IS AN EFFECTIVE ONE?

A. I JUST REPEATED IT.

Q. ALL RIGHT. CAN WE GO ON? JUDGING BY LICENSE PLATE NUMBER TWO, MR. DOBRYNIN HAS BEEN IN THE BUILDING. CAN YOU GO OVER IT FOR US, PLEASE?

A. YES. MR. DOBRYNIN MET WITH MR. VANCE THIS MORNING FOR ABOUT AN HOUR AND FIFTY MINUTES. AS THE SECRETARY SAID HE WAS GOING TO DO, HE DISCUSSED WITH MR. DOBRYNIN THE FINDINGS THAT HE HAD MADE ON HIS TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST, AND THEY HAD A FULL DISCUSSION ON THAT MATTER.

Q. THIS IS HIS FIRST REPORT TO HIM ON THE TRIP?

A. YES, IT IS.

Q. DID MR. VANCE PROVIDE THE STATEMENTS ON THE WEST BANK TO AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN AT THEIR MEETING THIS MORNING?

A. I DON'T KNOW. I WOULD ASSUME, HOWEVER, THAT OUR POSITION HAVING NOT VARIED IT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY NECESSARY TO DO MUCH EXCEPT TO SAY THAT OUR POSITION HADN'T VARIED.

Q. HASN'T VARIED FROM THE POSITION OF THREE WEEKS AGO?

A. YES.

Q. DID THE DOBRYNIN MEETING DEVELOP ANYTHING REGARDING ANY SOVIET ROLE IN -- I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO CALL THEM NOW -- IN THE SEPTEMBER TALKS AT THE UN, PREPARATORY,

WORKING GROUP, INTERIM, PRELIMINARY?

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A. I DON'T THINK THAT I CAN GO INTO THE DETAILS OF IT. I THINK THE SECRETARY HAS SAID ABOUT AS MUCH AS I CAN SAY ON THE SUBJECT, WHICH IS THAT WE ARE IN A JOINT ROLE AND THAT WE INTEND TO KEEP THEM FULLY INFORMED OF WHAT WE'RE DOING.

Q. PROCEDURALLY, BECAUSE AS YOU DESCRIBED, IN THE MIDDLE EAST, HE'S GOING TO BE SHUTTLE BETWEEN THE ARABS AND THE ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER, AND I WONDERED IF THE SOVIETS HAVE ANY PHYSICAL ROLE BESIDES BEING INFORMED AS TO WHAT THE UNITED STATES IS DOING, WHETHER THEY WOULD DO ANY I-DON'T-KNOW WHAT, ANY TALKING TO THE ISRAELIS AND/OR THE ARABS, SORT OF A PARALLEL SYSTEM?

A. I DON'T KNOW OF ANY SPECIFIC PLANS THE SOVIETS MAY HAVE IN THAT REGARD.

Q. WHY DIDN'T THE SECRETARY SEE AMBASSADOR DINITZ TODAY?

A. I DON'T THINK THERE WAS ANY PARTICULAR REASON WHY HE DIDN'T, UNLESS HE HAD AN OVERLAPPING APPOINTMENT. AMBASSADOR DINITZ HAS BEEN KNOWN TO SEE THE UNDER SECRETARY AS WELL AS THE SECRETARY IN THE PAST.

Q. ON THAT SUBJECT -- THIS MAY BE PICKING NITS -- BUT MY RECOLLECTION IS, ON THE 26TH, IT WAS ATHERTON WHO CALLED DINITZ WITH THE STATE--

A. ATHERTON SAT IN ON THE MEETING THIS MORNING.

Q. I SEE. WELL, THE FACT THAT THE UNDER SECRETARY IS INVOLVED THIS TIME, IS THAT TO INDICATE--

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A. IT IS NO MORE SIGNIFICANT THAN THE FACT THAT IT WASN'T THE SECRETARY. THEY DISCUSSED A NUMBER OF MATTERS CONCERNING THE MIDDLE EAST AND AMONG THEM WAS TO LET THEM KNOW IN ADVANCE WHAT THESE STATEMENTS WERE GOING TO BE.

Q. ANYTHING YOU CAN GIVE US ON THE CARTER LETTERS TO BEGIN AND ASAD?

A. NO, ABSOLUTELY NOT. IF THERE IS ANYTHING TO BE GIVEN ON THAT, THE WHITE HOUSE WOULD GIVE IT.

Q. I'D LIKE TO CLEAR SOMETHING UP IF I MAY: DID YOU SAY THAT THIS STATEMENT THAT YOU HAVE MADE ON THE SETTLEMENTS AND ON THE WEST BANK REPRESENTS NO CHANGE IN POLICY?

A. THAT IS MY UNDERSTANDING.

Q. IT IS NOT A HARDENING OF POLICY?

A. IT IS A RESTATEMENT OF OUR POLICY.

Q. THE REASON I ASK YOU IS BECAUSE, ON THE FACR OF IT, I THINK WE CAN SAY THAT PRIMA FACIE, THIS IS A TOUGHER APPROACH THAN THE PRESIDENT TOOK. WOULD YOU DISAGREE?

A. I DON'T KNOW. GIVEN THE REACTION TO OTHER STATEMENTS FROM THIS PODIUM, I FIND THIS ONE TO BE Milder THAN THE REACTIONS TO SOME OF THE THINGS I'VE SAID ON SIMILAR SUBJECTS. I BELIEVE THIS IS INTENDED TO BE A VERY EXPLICIT STATEMENT OF WHAT OUR POLICY IS, AS OUR PAST STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN. I DO NOT UNDERSTAND IT TO BE A NEW FORMULATION WHICH WOULD REPRESENT A MAJOR DEPARTURE.

Q. IS THE WORD "ILLEGAL" USED?

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A. YOU'RE TELLING ME THAT "ILLEGAL" HAS NEVER BEEN USED. I HAVE NOT RESEARCHED IT. TO ME, AGAIN, I REPEAT, IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING, WHAT I'M SAYING HERE IS IN MANY WAYS AN EXACT DUPLICATE OF WHAT I'VE SAID BEFORE.

Q. COULD I TAKE YOU BACK TO MR. ATHERTON'S MEETING WITH THE NEWSMEN YESTERDAY, THERE SEEMED TO BE AN IMPLICATION THAT THERE WAS SOME DIFFERENCE IN THE APPROACHES TOWARDS THE U.S. POSITION TOWARDS 242 BETWEEN WHAT YOU HAD SAID

THE PREVIOUS DAY AND WHAT MR. ATHERTON HAD SAID YESTERDAY, AND YOU SAID YOU MIGHT LOOK INTO --

A. THERE ARE NO DIFFERENCES.

Q. NONE AT ALL?

A. NO.

Q. THEN, WHAT YOU SAID THIS MORNING ABOUT 242 IS --

A. -- IS WHAT I SAID YESTERDAY AND WHAT MR. ATHERTON WAS SAYING AT THAT MEETING. I THINK HE WAS ASKED, FRANKLY, A RATHER BROAD AND SPECULATIVE QUESTION ABOUT, "YOU MEAN, NO MATTER WHAT COMES UP OF ANY SORT..." AT

THAT POINT HE DID WHAT I THINK ANY DIPLOMAT WOULD DO.  
HE RESERVED TRYING TO SAY THAT HE WOULD JUST ABSOLUTELY  
RULE OUT ANYTHING WHEN HE COULD NOT CONCEIVE OF WHAT  
ANYTHING WOULD BE, BUT THAT'S A DIFFERENT THING  
ENTIRELY.

Q. HODDING, IS THERE ANY DIFFERENCE IN THE SETTLEMENTS  
ON THE WEST BANK AND IN OTHER TERRITORIES?  
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A. INsofar as OCCUPIED TERRITORIES ARE CONCERNED,  
THERE'S NO DIFFERENCE.

2. QUESTION TAKEN AT NOON BRIEFING, AUGUST 18:

Q. DID THE LABOR GOVERNMENT AGREE TO SET UP SETTLEMENTS  
OTHER THAN THOSE THAT HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED AS MOVING  
FORWARD BY THE BEGIN GOVERNMENT?

A. WE HAVE NOT BEEN PROVIDED WITH SPECIFICS OF ANY  
LABOR GOVERNMENT SETTLEMENT PLANS.

Q. DOES THE U.S. HAVE ANY ASSURANCE THAT NO NEW  
SETTLEMENTS WILL BE FOUNDED WHILE PRESENT DIPLOMATIC  
EFFORTS ARE UNDERWAY?

A. NO. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 22-Sep-1999 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** THE PRESS, BRIEFING MATERIALS  
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**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** n/a  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - AUGUST 18 1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR AUGUST 18, 1977. FYI ONLY, SPOKESMAN TODAY WAS HODDING CARTER III.  
**TAGS:** PFOR, SOPN, XF  
**To:** TEL AVIV NIACT AMMAN MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/93e85751-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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